Proposed organizational changes to the Loras College Social Work Club

The purpose of the Loras Social Work Club is to provide a supportive organization for individuals interested in social justice issues and promoting the social work values of service, social justice, human dignity, integrity, relationships, and competence. Members of the club will enhance his/her academic identity of “liberal arts learners” through the activities and projects associated with the club.

Reasons for proposed change

The original purpose of the club was to provide students with the opportunity to participate in service and promote social justice. With Peace and Justice Club and the many service opportunities available to Loras students, in addition to the recent formation of DuServe, this is no longer a need. However, we do recognize the importance in fostering a student-led, liberal arts learning environment in relation to the social work values: service, social justice, human dignity, integrity, relationships, and competence, through providing opportunities for guest speakers, films, events, fundraisers, and activities. We also want to continue the tradition of the Giving Tree on campus.

Furthermore, noting the participation level of many students at Loras, the proposed change would provide a platform that has less time commitment but more impact. By shifting from a 4-member board to a 9-member council, leaders would only be solely responsible for one event per semester, attendance at one council meeting per month, and attendance/participation in monthly club events. For those involved in sports, theater, or other time-intensive activities during specific times of the year, this provides a more realistic expectation for involvement and disperses the responsibility.

On a membership level, instead of attending regular meetings, which often conflict with other activities and deter students from getting involved due to time commitment, members would have the opportunity to attend monthly events and to join committees for events that specifically relate to their interest or availability. To increase outreach and awareness, the events would be open and marketed to the entire campus community.

Proposed Structure

Board/Council

The board, or “council” will be composed of 9 students, 3 from each class (sophomore, junior, senior) of declared social work majors. These positions would be filled through self and peer nominations in the spring, and would be voted on by all members of the club. Responsibilities and leadership of the club
would be dispersed among these students. The council and the club moderator would elect for the following positions:

**Moderator**

Overall coordinator of the club, conducts regular meetings with club advisor, calls meetings and prepares agendas, works with councilmembers and club members on preparing events and activities, oversees proper execution of the constitution. This position must be filled by a junior student.

**Treasurer**

Responsible for managing the club’s budget, facilitating fundraisers, correspond with the Business Office, construct a budget for the year, distribute money to approved charities, and collect money for fundraisers or events.

**PR**

PR Duties include: sending out emails about events, attending Social Work Club functions and taking pictures, publicizing activities and events, submitting articles for publication to the Lorian or Telegraph Herald, submitting photos and information for the Yearbook.

**Secretary**

Duties include: notifying members of upcoming meetings and events, taking minutes during the club meetings, writing up the minutes and distributing them to club members presenting minutes at each meeting, and attending meetings with the faculty club advisor.

Any member who holds a council position is expected to make a commitment to the club and the activities conducted by the club. Duties can be redistributed among councilmembers depending on individual strengths, as determined by the members. If an officer does not fulfill her/his duties, then that individual will be removed from office through the voting process.

If an officer wishes to resign her/his position or is studying abroad, then that individual is required to submit a written request to the other councilmembers and faculty involved with the club. Empty positions will be filled from the nominee list/voting results, through the election process or through appointments made by the Moderator or Advisor.

The entire council will meet once per month, with additional committee meetings related to events each member is responsible for.
Membership
Club membership would be open to all students, and strongly encouraged to social work majors.

Activities
The Club will host one event per month during the school year that promotes the social work values. Each council member is responsible for hosting one event per semester, and may create committees from the club mailing list to facilitate these events. This can include fundraisers, guest speakers, films, social events, partnering with other student organizations on a specific event/initiative that promotes the SW values, etc. The Giving Tree, SW Month, apparel sales, and the Don't Dump—Donate must be included each year.

The club will not host regular meetings, but councilmembers will form committees with club members for specific events.

**Proposed Calendar of Events**
- September: Campus Fest/P&J Week
- October: Apparel sales
- November: Open
- December: Giving Tree
- February: Open
- March: Social Work Month
- April: Open
- May: Don’t Dump—Donate